



# LANDSAT 7 MONTHLY UPDATE

The Landsat 7 Mission, developed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, is managed by the U.S. Geological Survey under authority established by Presidential Decision Directive NSTC-3.

## Program News

### **USGS Announces MOC Contractor**

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) announced the award of the Landsat 7 Flight Operations contract to Honeywell Technical Solutions Incorporated (HTSI) on November 15, 2000. HTSI supported Landsat 7 pre-launch operations and has operated the Landsat 7 spacecraft since the beginning of normal operations in July 1999.

### **Landsat 7 Downlinks**

In November, the Indonesia Ground Station at Parepare, Indonesia, started receiving Landsat 7 data operationally, and the Brazilian Ground Station in Cuiaba, Brazil resumed Landsat 7 operations. Operational international ground stations now number 14. Landsat 7 test data were successfully received and processed by the Thailand and University of Puerto Rico ground stations this month. These stations expect to be operational in the first or second quarter of CY 2001.

## Technical News

### **MOC 3-Tier Software**

The Landsat 7 Mission Operations Center (MOC) anticipates a December 4, 2000 software delivery that will add the 3-Tier International Ground Station acquisition priority capability. Over the last six months each station has negotiated a scheduling priority mask, and on October 12 each station was sent a copy of the acquisition mask to be implemented by the MOC. The stations were asked to review and approve the mask. On December 4 the MOC will begin scheduling the IGS service requests based on the approved 3-tier priority mask received from each international cooperator.

### **Metadata Exchange Successes**

The EROS Data Center Distributed Active Archive Center (DAAC) has completed testing metadata ingest with the two Canadian ground stations. The DAAC plans to begin receiving metadata from these two stations on an operational basis in late December. Metadata testing continues with metadata received from Australia and the European Space Agency.

### **Landsat 7 Calibration Parameter File**

Landsat 7 data quality remains excellent. The Image Assessment System Team, with support from the Landsat Project Science Office at NASA/GSFC, is preparing the next Calibration Parameter File (CPF) release. In this CPF release, scheduled for December 31, 2000, refinements to the geometric/geodetic alignment coefficients will be included to further improve the registration of Landsat 7 products.

## Meetings

### **The 9<sup>th</sup> Landsat 7 Technical Working Group Meeting (LTWG-9)**

Plans for the February 19-22, 2001 meeting for LTWG-9 are proceeding. The first announcement and information about hotel reservations has been sent to the international cooperators. Participants are encouraged to communicate with our logistics coordinators in making hotel reservations as soon as possible.

### **LDCM Workshop**

A Landsat Data Continuity Mission (Landsat follow-on) workshop will be held at the USGS National Center in Reston, Virginia, January 9-10, 2001, to discuss the LDCM Data Specification and the LDCM Data Policy. The workshop is an open meeting. Please see the LDCM website ([ldcm.usgs.gov](http://ldcm.usgs.gov)) for registration information.

### **CEOS Meeting**

The USGS applied for and was unanimously accepted for membership in the Plenary forum of the international Committee on Earth Observing Satellites (CEOS) at the 14th CEOS Plenary meeting, held in November in Rio de Janeiro. Acceptance of the USGS as a Plenary member

is based upon the recent transition of responsibility for Landsat 7 mission operation from NASA to the USGS. CEOS participation will enhance the USGS's ability to manage the Landsat 7 Program and to coordinate activities with our international cooperators.

## Related News

### **LDCM Website**

The Landsat Data Continuity Mission has established a website to disseminate relevant information about the mission. The LDCM Data Specification document is available for review at <http://ldcm.usgs.gov>.

### **ASTER Data Distribution**

The EROS Data Center began distributing ASTER data to the public on November 10, 2000. Users can access and order ASTER data through the Earth Observing System Data Gateway ([edcimswww.cr.usgs.gov/pub/imswelcome](http://edcimswww.cr.usgs.gov/pub/imswelcome))

### **EO-1/SAC-C Launch**

The Earth Observing One (EO-1) satellite was launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California on a Delta II rocket at 10:24 AM PST on November 21, 2000. The same rocket also placed SAC-C (Satelite de Aplicaciones Cientificas-C; Argentina) into its respective orbit. All systems on EO-1 are performing nominally and initial data from this instrument appear extremely promising.

SAC-C subsystems are also working properly and within specifications. Signals have been received by the four ground tracking stations: Norway, MacMurdo in Antarctica, Poker Flats in Alaska, and Wallops Island, Virginia. SAC-C data have been successfully downloaded to Cordoba, Argentina and the data are being analyzed. The engineering phase of the mission has begun and should take 30 days. Normal operations will begin at the start of the new year.

### **Quickbird Launch**

Unfortunately, the Quickbird 1 satellite launched November 20, 2000 did not achieve orbit. A second Quickbird launch is being planned in about six months.

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**The Landsat 7 Monthly Update is an informal communication tool, prepared monthly and distributed electronically to USGS Landsat 7 partners, to provide information about Landsat 7 activities and related topics of interest. Comments, corrections, and queries may be directed to David Carneggie at the following email address: [carneggie@usgs.gov](mailto:carneggie@usgs.gov).**